

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-54 (cancelled).

Claims 55-104 (new). The text of these claims commences on the next page of this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 51-54 without prejudice whereby previously presented Claims 1-54 are cancelled without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 55 (new). An arrangement for managing a herd of domesticated animals which comprises an animal identification system, at least one feeding trough which is disposed and dimensioned so it can only feed one of said animals at a time, said feeding trough including closure means for selectively precluding said animals from consuming feed therefrom, a central unit provided with a computer having a memory, said memory containing data for each animal of the herd relating to the status of each said animal in the hierarchy order of the herd, said data being utilized to aid in the management of the accessibility of each animal of said herd to said feeding trough.

Claim 56 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, comprising hierarchy order determining means for determining data as to the status of each said animal in said herd, said hierarchy order determining means supplying said data so determined to said memory, said memory storing said data.

Claim 57 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 56, wherein said data supplied by said hierarchy order determining means is continuously updated in said memory that stores said data.

Claim 58 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 55, wherein said memory contains data for each animal of the herd relating to the status of each said animal in jostling behavior order of the herd.

Claim 59 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 58, wherein the herd is managed with the aid of data regarding each animal's jostling behavior order stored in said memory.

Claim 60 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 55, wherein said central unit comprises an input means for inputting for each animal the statuses of such animal regarding its hierarchy order and its jostling behavior order.

Claim 61 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 55, wherein the arrangement is provided in an area for containing animals of said herd, said area having an entrance gate and an exit gate, the operation of at least one of said gates being controlled to the aid of said data in said memory.

Claim 62 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 61, wherein said area is provided with at least two entrance gates and two exit gates.

Claim 63 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 62, wherein said area comprises treatment means.

Claim 64 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 63, wherein said treatment means comprises a milking compartment having a milking robot.

Claim 65 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 64, wherein said milking compartment includes entrance means and exit means, a further area being provided which comprises said entrance gate and limit means for containing a predetermined limited number of said animals of said herd.

Claim 66 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 65, which comprises a detection device for detecting the number of animals in said further area and issuing a detection signal that indicates that said animals are present in said further area, said computer maintaining said entrance gate of said further area closed after said predetermined number of said animals of said herd have entered and remain in said further area.

Claim 67 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, wherein a feeding station is provided in said area, said feeding station including said one feeding trough and said closure means, said closure means adapted to be closed with the aid of data in said memory.

Claim 68 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, wherein said feeding trough is juxtaposed with another like feeding trough which includes another closure means adapted to be closed with the aid of data from said memory.

Claim 69 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, comprising a detection device for determining the quantity of fodder or drink, or both, present in said feeding trough at a predetermined point of time after a supply of said quantity of fodder or drink, or both, was received in said feeding trough and for issuing a first signal for operating said closure means based on the result of said quantity determination.

Claim 70 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 69, wherein said detection device comprises a weighing device that weighs the quantity of feed present in said feeding trough.

Claim 71 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 70, wherein said detection device comprises a clock.

Claim 72 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 71, wherein said clock determines the duration from the supply of said quantity of fodder or drink or both into said feeding trough and for issuing, based on the result of the determination of such duration, a second signal for operating said closing means.

Claim 73 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, comprising detection means for detecting jamming of said closure means.

Claim 74 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, comprising an obstacle detector for detecting an obstacle in an entrance to said feeding trough.

Claim 75 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, comprising an anti-violence detector.

Claim 76 (new). An arrangement as claimed in Claim 67, comprising a warning signal indicator that indicates that said closure means is about to close said feeding trough.

Claim 77 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, wherein said feeding station is provided with an animal identification means for identifying an animal at said trough, said closure means being operated with the aid of data from said animal identification means.

Claim 78 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 67, wherein said feeding station comprises a second feeding trough and a third feeding trough which are both similar to said first mentioned feeding trough, said computer being programmed so that a closure means at said third feeding trough is operated to close said feeding trough when data in said memory indicate that, within a predetermined period of time, an animal of said herd has consumed less than a first quantity of fodder from said first mentioned feeding trough and less than a second quantity of fodder from said second feeding trough.

Claim 79 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 78, wherein said first quantity or said second quantity or both is 0.75 kilograms.

Claim 80 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 78, wherein said predetermined period of time is 15 minutes.

Claim 81 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, which comprises a camera for observing the behavior of animals in said herd.

Claim 82 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, comprises discipline means for disciplining animals impeding the management of the herd.

Claim 83 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means comprises loudspeakers.

Claim 84 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means comprises means for applying an electrical voltage to animals of said herd.

Claim 85 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means comprises blowing means.

Claim 86 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means is movable from a position where it is not visible to an animal of said herd to be disciplined to a position where it is visible to such animal.

Claim 87 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 86, wherein said discipline means comprises an inflatable object.

Claim 88 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 87, wherein said inflatable object consists of a form of a cow, a wall, a picture showing a frightening image, a partition wall or a guide wall.

Claim 89 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means comprises a path that includes an exit gate and detours a milking compartment with a milking robot therein.

Claim 90 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 82, wherein said discipline means comprises an automatically movable vehicle.

Claim 91 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 90, comprising means for determining the position of an animal identified by said animal identification means and for moving said vehicle in the direction of the position of said animal by controlling said vehicle automatically with the aid of data from a positioning system.

Claim 92 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 91, wherein said positioning means comprises GPS.

Claim 93 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, wherein the means for determining the hierarchy order of each animal of said herd comprises a camera.

Claim 94 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, comprising means for determining the order in which animals enter or leave an area for determining the hierarchy order of animals in said herd.

Claim 95 (new). An arrangement in accordance with Claim 55, comprising means for determining the hierarchy order of animals in said herd by determining the order in which animals use a feeding station or a drinking station, or both, in the arrangement.

Claim 96 (new). A method of managing a herd of domesticated animals in which a number of automatic animal related procedures are automatically performed, the method comprising the step of determining the statuses of each animal of said herd as to its hierarchy order and as to its jostling behavior order in said herd.

Claim 97 (new). A method in accordance with Claim 96 comprising the step of controlling at least one of said procedures based on said determined statuses of an animal of said herd that is involved in said one procedure.

Claim 98 (new). A method as claimed in Claim 97, which comprises the step of determining the jostling behavior order whereby the performance of at least one of the automatic animal related procedures is controlled on the basis of such jostling behavior order of such animal.

Claim 99 (new). A method in accordance with Claim 97, wherein said step comprises opening or closing of a gate for the passage or barring passage of the relevant animal.

Claim 100 (new). A method in accordance with Claim 97, wherein said step comprises allowing or not allowing access by the relevant animal to a feeding trough.

Claim 101 (new). A claim in accordance with Claim 96, wherein said statuses of each animal in said herd are determined by manual input of data based on experience.

Claim 102 (new). A method in accordance with Claim 96, wherein said hierarchy order of each said animal of said herd is determined and updated by determining the order in which each relevant animal of the herd enters or leaves an area.

Claim 103 (new). A method in accordance with Claim 96, wherein the hierarchy order status and the jostling behavior order status of each said animal of the herd is determined and updated by determining how each relevant animal of the herd makes use of a feeding station or a drinking station, or both.

Claim 104 (new). A method of managing a herd of domesticated animals in which a number of automatic animal related procedures are automatically performed, the method comprising the step of determining the statuses of each animal in said herd as to its hierarchy order and its jostling behavior and its gourmet behavior.